CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5   1.   A method of sending an electronic message comprising the steps

of:

a) examining syntactic content of said electronic message;

b) comparing said syntactic content to a first database for a first match;

c) examining said addressed destination of said message to determine

10   an identity of an intended addressee;

d) comparing said identity of said intended addressee to a second

database for a second match; and

e) alerting said sender that said electronic message does not have an

attachment, based on said first match and said second match.

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2.   The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said steps a) through b)

versus said steps c) through d) may be performed, selectively, in any order, and .

simultaneously.

20   3.   The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said first database

comprises a list of specified terms indicating that an attachment is likely to be

desirable.

4.   The method as recited in Claim 3 wherein said specified terms correspond to a high frequency of appearance within electronic messages that have a high frequency of transmission with attachments.

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5.   The method as recited in Claim 4 wherein said step b) further comprises the step of recognizing elements of said syntactic content wherein said elements comprise a plurality of syntactic terms.

10   6.   The method as recited in Claim 5 wherein said step b) comprises the steps of:

c1) identifying certain terms of said plurality of syntactic terms that correspond to said specified terms;

c2) determining that any of said certain terms exist; and

15   c3) triggering said step e) accordingly.

7.   The method as recited in Claim 6 further comprising the step of:

updating said first database, provided that an email attachment is required.

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8.   The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said second database comprises a list of specified addressees.

9.   The method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said specified addressees comprise a group of recipients of electronic mail messages, wherein said electronic messages are characterized by a high frequency of transmission with attachments.

10.   The method as recited in Claim 9, wherein said step c) further comprises the step of recognizing an address of said addressee, wherein said address is an user identifier, a user name, a user email address, a user Universal Resource Locator, or a user alias.

11.   The method as recited in Claim 10, wherein said step d) further comprises the steps of:

d1) identifying said address as a certain addressee, wherein said certain addressee corresponds to one of said specified addressees;

d2) determining that any of said certain addressees exist; and

d3) triggering said step e) accordingly.

12.   The method as recited in Claim 11 further comprising the step of:

updating said second database, provided an email attachment is required.

13.   The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said step e) comprises activation of an on-screen display, a tone, synthesized speech, a pop-up window, a drop-down flag, or a combination.

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14.   A method of sending an electronic message comprising the steps of:

a)   examining content of said an electronic message for selected keywords therein, said selected keywords being of a first database of keywords

10   associated with messages that frequently have attachments sent therewith;

b)   provided said electronic message does not already have an attachment associated therewith, alerting a user that said electronic message does not have an attachment associated therewith provided one of said selected keyword is located within said electronic message; and

15   c)   provided said electronic message does have an attachment associated therewith, updating said first database based on said content of said electronic message.

15.   A method as described in Claim 14 wherein said electronic

20   message is an electronic mail message.

16.   A method as described in Claim 14 wherein said step b) comprises the step of displaying a message on a computer display screen that said electronic message does not have an attachment associated therewith.

17. A method as described in Claim 14 further comprising the steps of:

d) examining a recipient of said an electronic message against selected identifications, said selected identifications being of a second database of identifications that are recipients of messages that frequently have attachments sent therewith;

e) provided said electronic message does not already have an attachment associated therewith, alerting a user that said electronic message does not have an attachment associated therewith provided one of said selected identifications is said recipient of said electronic message; and

f) provided said electronic message does have an attachment associated therewith, updating said second database based on said recipient of said electronic message.

18. A method of sending an electronic message comprising the steps of:

a) examining a recipient of said an electronic message against selected identifications, said selected identifications being of a first database of identifications that are recipients of messages that frequently have attachments sent therewith;

b) provided said electronic message does not already have an attachment associated therewith, alerting a user that said electronic message

does not have an attachment associated therewith provided one of said

selected identifications is said recipient of said electronic message; and

c)   provided said electronic message does have an attachment

5   associated therewith, updating said first database based on said recipient of

said electronic message.

19.   A method as described in Claim 18 wherein said electronic

message is an electronic mail message.

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20.   A method as described in Claim 18 wherein said step b)

comprises the step of displaying a message on a computer display screen that

said electronic message does not have an attachment associated therewith.

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